

Henry Jones

New Haven, Connecticut
April 3, 1898

Last night I experienced a vision. I was in my study, preparing a gloss of Wolfram von Eschenbach's Parzival for Professor Ziller's vernacular lit. seminar. I was sipping claret, and a half-filled glass sat before me on my desk. I had reached the place in the narrative where Percival, the holy innocent, first beholds

"a thing called the Grail,
Which passes all earthly perfection."
- when all at once the room seemed to grow brighter. At first I thought it was a surge in the gas line; then I remembered that at Mary's insistence we were living in a modern building, lit by electricity.

It was my wine glass that was glowing - shining with a light more

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incandescent than a dozen electric bulbs. And then before my eyes (and I had not drunk to excess), the vessel rose from the table and began to flicker. One moment it shone like the full moon and seemed to have a row of pearls about its rim; then in the blink of an eye it turned to tarnished metal and in place of the pearls appeared writing; in the ~~next~~ next instant it looked to be made of wood. And the room was filled with a voice that roared like a tornado and yet whispered like a lover's secret; and it said, "Henry Jones, as knights of old sought this treasure, so shall you!" And then - the entire incident could not have lasted ten seconds - the room was silent, and my glass was a glass once more.

Now, I am not a religious man, nor am I given to belief in "signs and wonders." But I cannot deny what

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my eyes saw, nor what I heard with my own ears. There is no question in my heart that I have received a calling. I have been sent upon a quest. I, Henry Jones, have been granted an opportunity to find that prize of the centuries, that stirring object of man's spiritual yearning since the time of King Arthur - the Holy Grail.

From this day I devote my life, my fortune and my scholarly efforts to the fulfillment of this awesome commission. I shall find the Holy Grail if it takes me a lifetime, and this book shall be a record of my quest.

Would that I prove worthy!

Western Massachusetts
August 24, 1900

In a sleeping car aboard the Lakes Flyer, returning home from the conference of the Association of American Medievalists. I am anxious to be home with my wife and my infant son. Never again will I be such a naïf as to believe that a document certifying one as a Doctor of something-or-other represents an automatic conferral of dignity and respect.

My conference paper was greeted with embarrassment, skepticism and ridicule. My colleagues are unanimous in their belief that the Holy Grail is a fairy tale; that I would better serve scholarship by studying the inventories of manorial estates or the effects of the Black Death on the development

of cities - worthy subjects, I suppose, if one wishes to be an academic drudge, if one possesses no imagination, no inner fire, no... vision. But I am heartened by the knowledge that Schliemann was likewise mocked when he set out to find the ruins of Troy. Toujours l'audace!

What poses more of an obstacle than the skepticism of colleagues is the sparse and contradictory nature of existing accounts of the Grail. There is no certainty as to what it looks like, or even what it is. The primary legend, of course, has it as a wine cup - the cup used by Christ at the Last Supper, in which Joseph of Arimathea caught His blood when He was crucified. Yet the word grail, or graal could mean "a wide-mouthed shallow vessel" - not a cup

but a hovel. In some accounts it is not a vessel at all, but a stone. Indeed, Wolfram calls it Lapsit ex cellis, by which he may mean lapis ex caelis (stone from heaven) or perhaps lapis exilis, the "philosopher's stone" of the alchemists, by which all things are possible.

Chrétien de Troyes (late 12th century) is the earliest author to use the word "grail." Chrétien's grail is "of pure gold and richly set with precious stones." From it streamed such pure light that "the luster of candles was dimmed."

Wolfram von Eschenbach, a generation later, describes it as a stone fallen from heaven, carried on a piece of green silk. Wolfram maintains he heard the legend from a minstrel named Kyot, or Gyot; who found it in Spain in a book by a Jewish astrologer, written in a

"heathen tongue" (probably Arabic or Hebrew). Robert de Boron and other 14th century writers offer no specific description but clearly have it as a cup, not a bowl. They tell us that it appeared in a vision to King Arthur and his knights, covered with a cloth of white velvet. It seemed to "glow with its own light," it gave off "a pleasing fragrance" and dispensed food to the company.

Sir Thomas Malory a century later speaks of this vision, but the white cloth is described as velvet, not silk. Maddeningly, Sir Thomas offers no description either; but maintains that Sir Galahad found the grail on a silver table, contained in a chest covered with precious stones.

Such a bundle of contradictions!
Such an abundance of confusion!

Because of this uncertainty as to the very appearance of the object of my Quest, I shall reserve the following pages of this diary as a ready reference for various descriptions and accounts of the Grail, so that I may by comparing them better be able to evaluate their accuracy.

I have underlined
the specific elements
of the description that
I believe are most
pertinent.



Fragment in Old Irish found in abbey of
Cantaneu, Brittany 7/8/06, attrib. to sur-
vivor of the sack of Iona by the Vikings
in the ninth century. Obvious Anglo-
Saxon influence, but parchment, ink
and style of illumination seem to in-
dicate authenticity. (Translation by H.J.):

Their ships like sharks, like shades
of Satan,

Rumbled like whales that walked
on the water;

Their thirsty axes, slaked on our blood,
Ran with red in the endless night.

And the holy books they set to the torch,
Throwing monk and manuscript alike
on the flame;

The word and the flesh to perish together...

... The Cup of Our Lord

Carven of wood from the tree of peace
On salver of silver, on samite of emerald,
Borne to our house by Galtraut the Pure
In the days of Arthur, when fair
Logres fell,

This holiest of relics they ravished away
To their land of darkness where
The Devil is lord.

Of the identity of "the Cup of Our Lord,"
there can be no doubt! "Tree of
peace" would seem to imply that it is
made of olive-wood. The "salver (tray) of
silver" and "samite (silken cloth) of em-
erald" are identical with the silver table
and green cloth described by Chrétien
and others. "Logres" is Britain; while
"Galhaut" is none other than ~~the~~ Sir
Galahad himself!



Muhammad Ali al-Jawf
Museum of Islam
Baghdad, Iraq

14 November 1909

Dear Dr. Jones:

In Qom recently I had the occasion to examine a Persian manuscript of Nur ed-Din al-Musafir, a remarkable figure of the twelfth century of your calendar who traveled extensively in Asia, Africa and Europe. It contained this fragment found in no other edition of al-Musafir known to me. Being aware of your special interest in the item he discusses, I took the liberty of translating it for you:

"Also at Cordoba I met a man who claimed to have seen the vessel that is said to have caught the life's blood of the prophet Isa (Jesus):... A shallow bowl of pewter, dented in many places, engraved with a design of grapes and grape leaves as well as writing in the script of the Jews. (It was) wrapped in a cloth of golden silk, and seemed to glow with its own light when the cloth was removed. Where on Allah's earth he saw this marvel the man would not say; only that it was near the source of a river which he reached after traveling south from an oasis."

I hope this is of more than passing interest to you.

Peace be upon you,

al-Jawf

al-Jawf

Indicazioni d'urgenza



Circuito sul quale si deve fare
l'inoltro del telegramma

Ufficio Telegrafico di ROMA

T E L E G R A M M A

Qualifica	Destinazione	Provenienza	Numero	Parole	Data della presentazione Giorno e mese Ore e minuti	VIA d'istadamento	Indicazioni eventuali d'ufficio
2/21/12							
DOTTORE HENRY JONES FOUR CORNERS UNIVERSITY LAS MESAAS COLO USA							

HAVE OBTAINED JOURNAL PAOLO OF GENOA 13TH CENTURY MERCHANT STOP
RELATES ADVENTURES AMOUNG TURKISH TRIBES CENTRAL ASIA STOP TRIBESMAN
TOLD HIM OF SEEING LARGE CERAMIC DRINKING CUP GLOWED LIKE MOONLIGHT
OBSCURE LOCATION GUARDED BY CHRISTIAN KNIGHT AND LETHAL PROTECTIVE
DEVICES STOP PAOLO CONJECTURES HG STOP VISITING AMERICA THIS SPRING
WILL BRING IT FOR YOUR EXAMINATION STOP SAILING APRIL ON NEW BRITISH
LINER TITANIC STOP CODIROLLI

Il Governo Italiano e la Società Italcable non assumono alcuna responsabilità civile in conseguenza del servizio cablografico telegrafico e radioelettrico.

Professor Charles B. Hawken of Oxford spoke on his researches near Abergavenney, Wales. He has found fragments of a journal kept by a Christian hermit in the Welsh mountains in the early 8th century. The journal illuminates several aspects of piety and religious practice of the British people during the Dark Ages. Of especial interest is the account of a vision, experienced in the year 717 or 719 by this anonymous chronicler, of the Holy Grail of Arthurian legend: "...the humble wooden cup that held God's blood, which resided at Avalon in the days of King Arthur, carven with holy symbols and shining with the light of grace."

To be ...

5-7-15: Clipped from The Celtic Scholar,
spring issue, concerning a conference on
Celtic-British literature after the Saxon
invasions. Must get to England to meet
Hawken once this European war is over.
Young Brody must certainly know him.

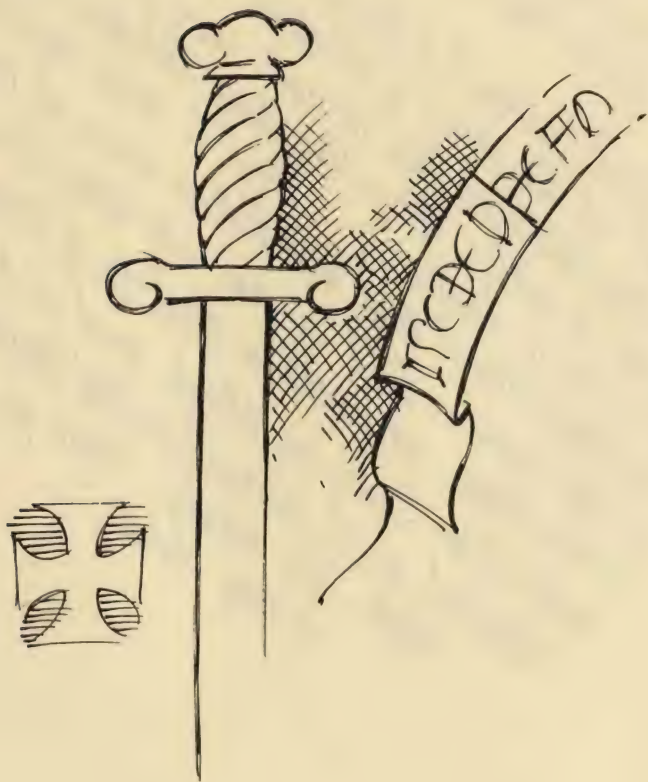
Verse fragment in the Welsh language
attributed to Taliesin, sung by a shep-
herd and folklorist at Moelidref, Wales
and translated by H. J., 7/21/20:

... Silver* as the foam of the sea,
Bright as the mirror of Bronwyn,
Fragrant as the flesh of Blodeuwedd,
Mighty as the sword of Bran;
Carven with spells of blessing
In the shrouded tongue of the East,
This vessel, the coracle of God
Drives out the old before the new.

NB: A coracle is a round boat such as
are still employed by fisherfolk in Wales
and western England; and thus Tal-
iesin's verse would seem to support the
theory that the Grail is a bowl, not a
cup.

* The native Welshmen tell me that this
word would be more accurately rendered
as "foamy" or "crystalline" or lumines-

cent. " In any case it describes a quality of appearance and should not be taken as a reference to the metal silver.



Account of a
vision of Abbess
Hildegard of Bingen,
found in a manuscript
in the library of the Benedic-
tine Abbey of St. Gallen, appar-
ently in Hildegard's own hand. (Trans-
lated from the Latin and excerpted by H. J. airo.

"On Good Friday [of the year 1163], I was in
chapel at the hour of Matins... And of a sudden
it seemed that the chapel was filled with a
light brighter than the day. Through outside
there was darkness... And I was visited by
the Holy Ghost and granted a vision of Our Lord
on the cross... And by his side stood Joseph of
Arimathea, who held a chalice of brass to
catch Our Saviour's blood, and on it was in-
scribed as it seemed in the Greek lang-
uage, the words "Take ye, this
is my blood."...

Excerpt from the journal of Byzantine merchant in Kiev, early-10th century, translated by G. Codinelli and shown to me 9-29-20

"... And though the Kingdom of Rus is pagan, there are many Christians among its people, and Jews and Saracens as well. And in the market a man, knowing me to be a Christian, offered to sell me a chalice which he said was the holy cup that caught the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. But I have been to Jerusalem, and to Antioch, and many liars and charlatans have tried to sell me bones of saints and pieces of the Cross and fragments of Christ's garments. And the cup he had was plain, of base metal and with no ornamentation, and surely could not have been the glorious Cup of Our Lord...

Lady Eleanor Ferrers-Lansdowne
The Meadows
Chetfield, Berks.

2 June 1923

Dear Henry,

I was reminded of you today in an unexpected fashion. I was taking tea with Sir A. ——— D. ———, a gentleman but no scholar, who in his youth was a confidant of Sir Richard Burton, the late adventurer and linguist. As you know, upon Sir Richard's death Lady Burton burned many of his priceless journals of his travels in the Orient, holding them to be lascivious and obscene. Now, Sir A. ——— informs me that he was able to rescue a few of Sir Richard's fragments from the fire, and one that he described would be of interest to you. It seems that a Sufi master in some Mohammedan land told Sir Richard that he knew the location of "the ceramic bowl" the infidels revere as the Grail; that it had "heathen designs on it" and writing that was not Arabic, "nor was it in the script of the Jews or the Greeks or any other he had ever seen." Unfortunately, the surviving fragment gave no clue of where this Moor had seen the vessel; only that he had traveled "eastward from the city" and referred also to "passing the three trials." The rest was burnt.

I think of you often, and look forward to the day when your search should bring you back to England. I remain as ever,

Yours,
Eleanor Ferrers-Lansdowne

New Gospel's Authenticity Disputed

4/23/27

ALEXANDRIA (Reuters)— Experts examining the so-called "Gospel of Joseph of Arimathea" unearthed last month have cast doubt on the document's genuineness, British Museum sources reported today.

The manuscript, discovered in the ruins of Kozra, an early Christian colony being excavated by archaeologists south of here, is a previously unknown account of the life of Christ attributed to Joseph of Arimathea, the "rich man" who buried Jesus after the crucifixion as recounted in the New Testament.

The papyrus scroll, written in the Coptic language of ancient Egypt, was hailed by churchmen and lay scholars alike as "the find of the millenium" when made public by Dr. Robert Hawes of Ivy University, leader of the team that made the discovery. But other expert sources close to the Hawes expedition are of the opinion that the docu-

ment was written no earlier than the late 2nd century A.D., and possibly as late as the 7th century.

"As an eyewitness account the 'Joseph' papyrus just doesn't ring true," said one knowledgeable source who requested anonymity. "It smacks too much of medieval fable. That holy-grail business simply has no place in early-Christian literature."

The so-called Holy Grail, the wine cup said to have been used by Jesus at the Last Supper and by Joseph to catch the blood of Jesus as he died on the Cross, figures prominently in the manuscript. Joseph describes it as a plain, shallow vessel of bronze, which forever after its association with Jesus "gave forth sweet odours and glowed with the light of heaven."

The Grail became an object of veneration and knightly quest in the tales of King Arthur and other legends of the middle ages.

Common Folly: ...

*Fable, my kind foot! Must speak
to Hawes at earliest opportunity!*

WOLFGANG S. STAUBIG, PH.D.
HEIDELBERG • DEUTSCHLAND

14 September, 1932

My dear Dr. Jones,

I would apologize for my long silence, were I not certain that my news will render apologies superfluous. While on holiday last month in Dubrovnik, I found in an antiquarian bookstore an apparently genuine manuscript of The Book of the Spells of Merlin. As you know, the last known copy of this forbidden compendium of Celtic magic was burned by the Inquisition in 1384, and so my copy may be unique.

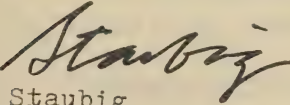
I would be pleased to allow you to examine the manuscript on your next visit, but I thought you would be eager to learn that among its contents is a purported illumination of an object of particular interest to you. It is described as a chalice of pewter with a flared base. Around the circumference below the lip are etched in Aramaic the words "av bar ruach ha-kodesh"--father, son, holy ghost. A fitting formula for a work

attributed to a sorcerer, you will agree, as this early Christian invocation is believed to be the origin of the magician's "abracadabra."

In the text, "Merlin" offers an incantation for conjuring up an image of the vessel. Unfortunately this spell is rendered not in Latin transliteration but in runic characters; and the monastic copyists, apparently unfamiliar with the arcane symbols, have rendered them to gibberish. Professor O'Lochlainn of Dublin is eager to attempt a restoration of the runes, and a young French scholar named Belloq has expressed a similar desire. (Do you know him, by the way? His erudition is impressive, but I find distasteful his association with certain political elements in my country.)

In any event, I hope this felicitous discovery will soon occasion a visit. It has been entirely too long, Dr. Jones, since you and I last toasted one another's health.

Yours most truly,


Staubig

Las Mesas, Colorado
November 14, 1905

The seeds I planted on my European journey this summer are beginning to bear fruit: received today a most interesting letter from Marcus Brody, a young scholar I met at Oxford. He ~~informs me~~ informs me that the abbey of Cantaney on the coast of Brittany is in possession of some old Irish manuscripts, one of which is said to refer to the Grail and as a genuine object, not a legend. I cannot wait to return next year to confirm!

At least I feel that my Quest has truly begun. When I think of the single-minded dedication of the knights of King Arthur's court, who seem to have interrupted their own pursuit of the Grail only to slay the occasional dragon or to rescue a castle full of maidens now and then, it is plain that not

one among the lot of them was ever
troubled with the necessities of support-
ing a wife and young son.

To be fair, I have no dragons to con-
tend with on my quest - only the occa-
sional snake. Right soon Junior is sulking
in his room, to which he has been
banished after bringing home a rather
large specimen which somehow found
its way into my desk drawer. He is quite
an intrepid child - when not hunting
rodents in the cellar or running with
the Indian children from the reservation,
he is usually finding some trouble to get
into. Yet he is smart as a whip - already
he can count to twenty in Latin and
Greek (and swear resoundingly in
Navaho) - and I am confident that I
can make a scholar of him.

Auberge d'Écuime
Canteney, France

July 8, 1906

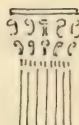
Brady was right. The abbey here is a treasure trove. Finding the item in question took some digging, but with such results! The Grail is genuine, and before me this very afternoon was proof: a fragment of verse written by a survivor of the Vikings sack of the monastery of Iona. The Grail was actually in the possession of that holy community for three centuries after the time of King Arthur, brought there by Galahad after Saxon raids and Mordred's treachery had destroyed Camelot.

But after then, where? Could the Vikings have taken it to Norway? Might they have lost or discarded it in one of their subsequent raids? They roved as far east as Russia and as far south as Africa.

I dare not believe that it was lost at sea!

Many just returned to our room with

junior, who by now must have over im-
keeper, M. Roland de Haie, confirmed in
his belief that Americans are savages and
quite untamable - at least when armed
with a sling-shot. We shall have to find new
accommodations tomorrow. Fortunately Mme.
de Haie's cat seems none the worse for the
encounter, and we shall not have to pay
damages for our land lord's "priceless thir-
teenth-century vase" - which by its cross
section clearly proved to be of considerably
more recent origin and of no value what-
ever.



Gasthof Trübselig
Klasenkeim, Austria-Hungary
July 16, 1906

Acting on information from a monk at Cantanery that the castle ~~was~~ here contained artifacts relating to the Grail legend, I traveled here to see for myself. There is a painting in the chapel by a Franciscan friar, with an interesting legend connected to it. Local tradition has it that the ~~first~~ friar received his account of the Grail from a knight of the first crusade who claimed that ~~heard~~ his brothers had actually found the holy relic somewhere "in a canyon deep in a range of mountains."

The scholar, the logical man within me, insists that this tale is pure rubbish: the Franciscan order was founded more than a century after the first crusade; and the style of the painting clearly

indicates that it could not have been rendered any earlier than the mid-13th century - meaning that this knight must have been more than 150 years old. But the dreamer, the spiritual man within me, hears such a tale as a confirmation of its truth - that the Grail does indeed confer eternal life on the one who fulfills its quest!

Am now soaking in an ancient cast-iron bathtub in the village inn. What an exhausting trip by mule-drawn cart, up the mountain to the castle and back again! I think of my son, deceptively sleeping the sleep of the innocent in our room down the hall, and pray that he shall never have to undertake so arduous a journey.

Las Mesas, Colorado
February 22, 1912

Can it really have been six years since my last entry? Could academic obligations, lack of funds and the responsibilities of fatherhood ~~truly~~ truly have kept me so long from pursuit of my quest? Worst of all has been Mary's tragic death, a blow from which neither I nor Junior have ~~yet~~ yet recovered. I fear I am unfit to raise a son alone - Junior grows wilder and more undisciplined by the months - yet my heart will not admit any other woman to take Mary's cherished place.

Necessity may have required me to devote these years to more conventional scholarship and to my teaching duties, but I have not by any means forsaken my sacred affirmation. It seems I am not the only scholar in

pursuit of this "fable". There are other "crack-pots" who share my passion, and still others who, though skeptical, nevertheless indulge my unconventional interest and keep me apprised of new discoveries concerning the lore of the Grail. Perhaps there is more romance in their souls than they would care to reveal to their respective institutions. Besides young Brody at Oxford, there is Staubig in Germany, the eminent Byzantine scholar Codirolli at Bologna, even an Arab in Baghdad who has been so kind as to pass along relevant information to this "infidel." Must arrange to meet them all on my next sabbatical.

Today I received a cable from Codirolli, occasioning this long-overdue entry. I am most eager to see the journal of this Paolo of Genoa he is bringing on his lecture tour. He is to sail on the maiden voyage of this new luxury liner Titauric.

that has been so much in the news
this winter. I am ~~am~~ envious!

Las Vegas

May 22, 1912

Codirolli is a marvel. Not only did he survive the sinking of the "unsinkable" vessel and the loss of the Paolo manuscript to Mr. Davy Jones; he has descended upon this forsaken patch of sand and presented me with a document he found in Constantinople that may have an even greater bearing on my Quest! Codirolli is lecturing on the west coast and will be taking the parchment with him when he returns this way next month, but in the meantime he left it here for me to make a facsimile copy.

The parchment was found among other documents in a tin box secreted in a wall of the great basilica of St. Sophia, and would appear to date from

the mid-13th century. The picture seems to represent a stained glass window, but the significance of the Roman numerals quite escapes me. They may have some connection with the writing on the reverse side of the parchment. It is in the Coptic alphabet of the early Egyptian Christian church, but the sense of it is not Coptic, and it appears to be some sort of cipher. What led Codicelli to infer its connection with my quest is the drawing at the top of the enciphered page. Though crudely rendered, it is a drinking vessel of some kind, and on it is written in good Aramaic - the language of Judea at the time of Christ - "father, son, holy ghost."

I have little hope of finding intact the stained-glass window I have depicted elsewhere. In all likelihood it has long since been destroyed. But the cipher may provide a clue - perhaps to

the location of the sacred relic itself.

Codirolli is an elegant old gentleman, and he seems to have led quite an adventurous life, assuming that the stories he told on that vinous evening last week were more than just the wild exaggerations of a Baron Munchausen. I admit I was almost as wide-eyed as Junior when he was telling his tales. Unfortunately my son tends to be overly excited by stories of high adventure. Certainly it was Codirolli's recounting of his escapade in the Sultan's harem and his escape down a rope made of - but I am becoming indiscreet - that inspired Junior to steal that Spanish cross this afternoon. I fear he may be too rash ever to make a good scholar - but perhaps it is just his youth.

Philadelphia
August 19, 1916

It has been a bleak year in every respect. First the European war, which again has occasioned the postponement of my long anticipated year of research. Then came my estrangement from Junior, which has caused such grievous injury to my spirit that I can hardly speak of it even in this private journal. And now, here at the conference, ridicule heaped upon scorn.

God, grant me the strength of will to continue this quest! Sometimes my resolve almost fails me. This week I gave two brilliant papers on mainstream topics in medieval literature; yet everywhere I went, it was "Here comes Sir Galahad," and "Heard you were at the North Pole seeking the historical Santa Claus," and "Have a chair, Jones, we've saved the Siege Perilous for you!" This last from Carruthers, who is still smarting from that little comedy in San Francisco two years ago when he was boasting about his ~~own~~ acquisition of a "gen-

give 15th-century Inca funeral urn" from some antiquities dealer in Bolivia. I'm sure I embarrassed him when I pointed out the tiny inscription just under the lip, the one that said "Made in Japan."

And the other day he returned the favor. Blast it to blazes! I should be oblivious to such condescension - God knows I've subjected myself to it long enough - but I had to resist the urge to land him one on that smug little grin of his. Right. Henry Jones, the white hope of Las Mesas. Perhaps I am not worthy of finding the Grail after all.

Aboard the steamer George S. Pilkington.
The North Atlantic
June 29, 1920

At last I can resume my research in earnest! Can it really have been fourteen years since I last saw the Old World? The Great War is over, Europe is unlocked once again, and I have a year to poke around in ruins and libraries before I resume my duties - at Princeton! May

"legitimate" scholarship has gained sufficient ~~rep~~ recognition that I have been granted tenure at that distinguished institution, despite what the academic community regards as my fanciful obsession. I am not sorry to leave Four Corners. I have appreciated the solitude of the desert, but it is too far from the mainstream of medieval scholarship and it contains far too many memories of Mary.

And of Junior. He truly loved Colorado, for all he decided that the State wasn't big enough for both of us; and his systematic explorations of the old Anasazi ruins during the year before he left home gave me hope that I had indeed raised a scholar.

I have no idea where my son is. I pray that he is alive, healthy, and not in prison. It still breaks my heart that he scorned the opportunity for a university education - not to mention his own father - for a life devoted to dissi-

pation and ruin. Wherever he is, I assume he is at this moment galloping across open country on horseback, tearing about in an automobile, or getting some young girl in trouble. (Just this evening on the promenade deck I was talking to a young lady I met at dinner with my own thoughts of romance - until I realized that this woman who spoke so frankly of female emancipation, speak-easies, and the scandalous theories of Dr. Sigmund Freud was a girl of the same age as Junior! It made me feel very old.)

Oxford, England

July 14, 1920

I am in my element. I have spent the past ten days combing the Arthurian collections in the British Museum in London and the Bodleian library here. Marcus Brody has become an antiquarian and has been most useful. He has introduced me to a number of ~~the~~ scholars who are supportive of my work. One is a young German Jesuit, Brother

~~Matthias~~ Matthias, who despite the understandable British hostility toward "the Hun", is well regarded in university circles here. Matthias is a student of the life and works of Abbess Hildegard of Bingen, the celebrated 12-century religious poet, visionary and musical composer; and he informs me that certain rare manuscripts of the Abbess's book of ~~verse~~ visions contain Grail references.

Unfortunately Professor Hawken died in the influenza epidemic last winter, but I have been allowed to see the Abercromweney manuscript. Hawken was not interested in Grail lore and spoke of the hermit's vision only in passing. We are off to Wales tomorrow to make further investigations.

"The Purple Dragon"
Mochdre, Wales

July 27, 1920

Eureka! Just when I was beginning to suspect that this Welsh excursion was a wild goose chase, we stumbled upon this village. A local folk legend has it that

the poet Taliesin, whom the chronicles speak of as a pupil and companion of Merlin, came to this valley after the death of Arthur and the breaking of the fellowship of the Round Table. The natives were most avid informants once I had proved my worthiness by quoting some of Taliesin's verses to them (and by matching them drink for drink in the common room of the inn.)

Taliesin was reputed to be a shape-changer, and one of the local traditions is that the poet would often take the form of an eagle and observe the knights disporting themselves. On occasion he is said to have gazed upon Sir Percival in his hermitage (NB: not Galahad, as in the later accounts.) after he had fulfilled the quest of the Grail, and of the sacred relic the bard sang a verse that I have recorded elsewhere in this notebook.

To my embarrassment, I awake this morning with an axe-blade in my skull, on a straw cot in the local jail. I will

admit to having had a bit too much to drink last night, but only the solemn confirmation of a dozen witnesses convinces me that I ~~indeed~~ indeed ended the evening standing on the bar of "The Purple Dragon," roaring out a medley of Yale college songs. It did not make matters any easier that it took Brody most of the morning to find his way there to pay my fine. How a man who can smell out a rare manuscript with the instinct of a bloodhound can get lost in a village of twenty houses is a mystery known only to the creator.

Sankt-Gallen, Switzerland
September 4, 1920

It is as Brother Matthius promised! The library of this ancient abbey contains a volume by Abbess Hildegard of Bingen, in her own hand, in which she recounts a

vision of the cup of Christ!

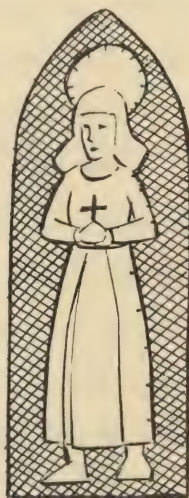
The incident is dated 1143. There exists a published Book of the Visions of St. Hildegard, compiled by the sisters of her convent; but the last revelation in that volume is dated 1155. The Abbess is known to have lived until 1179, and the St. Gallen codex clearly represents visions of the last 24 years of the celebrated mystic's life. I perused it carefully but found no other references to the Grail.

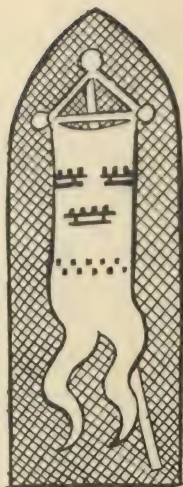
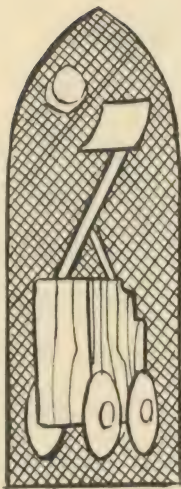
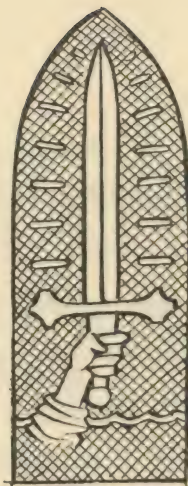
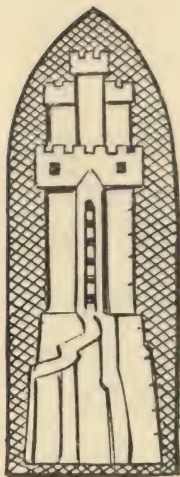
I have excerpted Hildegard's description of the Grail elsewhere in this notebook, but I remain puzzled by two features of the manuscript. ~~Across~~^{Across} the bottom of the page on which this vision is recounted appears a line of music with the annotation PER HOS SONOS SEPULCRUM APERIES - "by these tones you shall open the Tomb." The Abbess was a noted musician; but this is the only place in this particular codex where a musical reference appears.

"Sepulcrum" probably refers to the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. I have copied the music - "neumes," - I believe the medieval notes were called - and the master of the chapel here has graciously transcribed them into modern notes. But for now their significance remains a mystery, much like the Coptic cipher in Codinalli's Constantinople parchment. (I look forward to seeing the old reprobate in Bologna, but I first must make an unscheduled Rhine journey to Bingen.)

The other oddity is a cluster of illuminations that appear on the opposite (reverse) page: twelve medieval images, in three groups of four each, rendered in an individualized style that is far more characteristic of fifteenth rather than of twelfth-century art. Upon close examination the parchment page on which these drawings appear proved to be of an

entirely different quality and provenance than the rest of the codex - as if the volume had been rebound and the new leaf added at some time after the manuscript was written. I reproduce these drawings here, though their relevance, if any, to the object of my Quest must for now remain obscure.





Bologna, Italy
September 29, 1920

Codirolli continues to amaze me. He is past seventy, but his energy is equal to that of a twenty-year-old. Right now he is out carousing somewhere, leaving me to pore over the fruits of his remarkable labors of the war years. Hostile borders have been no barrier to him, nor has revolution, as he was able to slip into Constantinople (or, as we now must call it, Istanbul!) and Russia (or, as we now must call it, the Soviet Union!!) and bring out some of the most amazing items.

I have before me a parchment, this wonder obtained from the ruin of Kaffa, in the Crimea. It is a testament written in good Byzantine Greek by a Jewish physician who was in attendance at the death of a Franciscan friar in that city

in the year 1267. As it happens, in one of those happy accidents of scholarship, this was the same Franciscan who painted the ~~Crucifix~~ Crucifixion I saw so many years ago at Klaserheim - the friar who was said to have met a crusading knight who claimed that he and his brothers had found the Grail!

The physician relates that the friar was sick at heart and fearful of damnation because he "had known for years of the location of the Holy Grail and failed to restore it to Christendom for fear he was not worthy 'to feel the breath of God and live, to tread upon[?] the word of God and be saved, or to walk the path of God and not tumble into the abyss.'"

I have no clue as to the meaning of all this, but I must believe that to one armed with the proper knowledge

it provides directions to the location of the Grail!

Also before me is a Translation of another of Cadrolle's findings, a much older account of a Byzantine merchant which offers yet another ~~and~~ confounding description of the item. Its provenance - Russia - and its date - the mid-10th century - imply a connection with the fragment I found at Cantanery that refers to the Vikings having stolen the Grail from Iona. From Kiev, with all the trading and raiding that ~~was~~ ^{was} going on during those centuries, it could easily have made its way south to where it could have been found by knights of the First Crusade.

Bingen was a hoot. There was nothing in the voluminous manuscripts of Abbess Hildegard that yielded a clue to the musical notes in the St. Gallen codex; and seeing the devastation

wrought in the Rhineland by the war was dismaying. But what a journey this has been! A few more findings such as these and I may discover the Grail before I must return home!

Aboard the steamer Atalanta
The North Atlantic

June 21, 1921

Midsummer day. The Atalanta is steaming westward across a perfectly calm sea, bearing me home from what I must on balance consider a failed voyage. The heady successes of the summer months have been overshadowed by the three subsequent seasons of false trails, blind alleys and near misses - ~~in~~ Italy, Germany, the Balkans, Turkey and the Near East. I will not say that the year was without its joys - the Holy Land was a precious experience, to say nothing of my encounter with Lady E. - but as

regards my quest, everything after Bologna ~~was done~~ was disappointment and frustration.

Yet I have Princeton to look forward to, new adventures in scholarship and future opportunities to return to the Old World. I am only forty-five, and I have Codiselli to look at as an example of what can be accomplished at an advanced age. The search for the Grail is a lifetime quest. I was summoned to this mission two decades ago, and I can only believe that I have been chosen by some higher power to fulfill it.

Princeton, New Jersey

June 19, 1923

As Sherlock Holmes might say, I am back on the case. Since receiving Lady E.'s letter earlier this week, I have been constructing a map, based on all the accounts I have gathered of the

route to the Grail.

How fragmentary they are! The Burton tidbit Lady E. recounts to me speaks of traveling "eastward from the city" - but which city? The legend of Klasenheim had it "in a canyon in the midst of a range of mountains" - but which mountains? And al-Musafir's informant placed it "near the source of a river which he reached after traveling south from an oasis" - but which river; which oasis? "Oasis" implies desert - but which desert?

Yes, it seems there is useful research I can do in New Jersey. I must scour every atlas, ancient and modern, until I find a map that matches mine.

As for Lady E. - who would have believed she would remember me so fondly? I am feeling like a schoolboy!



SECRET CANYON

MOUNTAIN
RANGE

DESERT LANDS

OASIS



Princeton

May 29, 1927

The news out of Egypt has held me in thrall all this spring. I have haunted cable offices and made daily phone calls to the wire services in New York, anxious to receive every tidbit of news about Hawes' discovery as it becomes available. While everyone else in the world seems to be ecstatic over this Lindberg fellow, it is the papyrus unearthed at Komra that has claimed my undivided attention. If the scroll is authentically "the gospel according to Joseph of Arimathea," then its description of the Grail could be the authentic one. And even if it isn't, it may prove to have some connection with Codicelli's Coptic cipher.

Poor Codicelli! My urgent desire to get to Egypt and examine the Hawes papyrus is mitigated by his senseless death last year in Rome, an old man beaten

to death in the street for making an obscene gesture at one of il duce's Fascist bullies. I have lost a good friend, an invaluable colleague, and for now, at least, my taste for travel as well.

Ironically it was the same journal that carried the news of his death that brought me my first news of Junior in more than a decade. At least I assume that the "Dr. Indiana Jones" spoken of in connection with the Ravenwood expedition in Sinkiang is my son! I am gratified to learn that he is alive and has earned his doctorate - but Indiana? It was our dog's name in Las Mesas.

The bay continues pointedly to wound me. I wrote him a letter in care of Ravenwood at Chicago addressed to Dr. Henry Jones, Jr., but I have yet to receive a reply.

Cambridge, Massachusetts

October 2, 1928

Have seen the Hawes papyrus at last. I have nothing to add to the controversy over its genuineness, about which only a theologian would care. It is clearly of great antiquity and of interest to historians whether or not it is really an eyewitness account of Joseph of Arimathea. It is a transcription and a translation in any case: Joseph would have ~~was~~ written in Aramaic or perhaps Greek, certainly not Coptic, which did not exist as a written language until perhaps 200 AD. Only when I find the object of my quest will I be able to attest to the accuracy of the ~~the~~ author's description.

Do I sound discouraged? Perhaps I am, after all these years of false hopes, flimsy discoveries and disappointments? Perhaps I am. The search for the Holy Grail is the search for the spark of the divine in all of us. But just now I feel all too mortal, and I

fear I have wasted my life in pursuit
of a chimera.

Salisbury, England

September 17, 1930

I am shivering, but neither from cold
nor from fear.

I write this entry in a cell that has
graciously been lent to me by one of the
canons of the Cathedral, where in a
secret alcove high up in the building's
stonework a badly damaged copy of a diary
of St. Anselm was found this summer by
a mason making repairs. Brody advised
me by cable last month of the discovery.
How the manuscript came to be here in-
stead of at Canterbury, where Anselm
was archbishop, I do not know; but it
appears to have been hidden away be-
cause of one very un-Anselmlike vision-
ary ~~and~~ lacuna that some priest may
have adjudged "Satanic." Thank God
this did not destroy the manuscript

utterly!

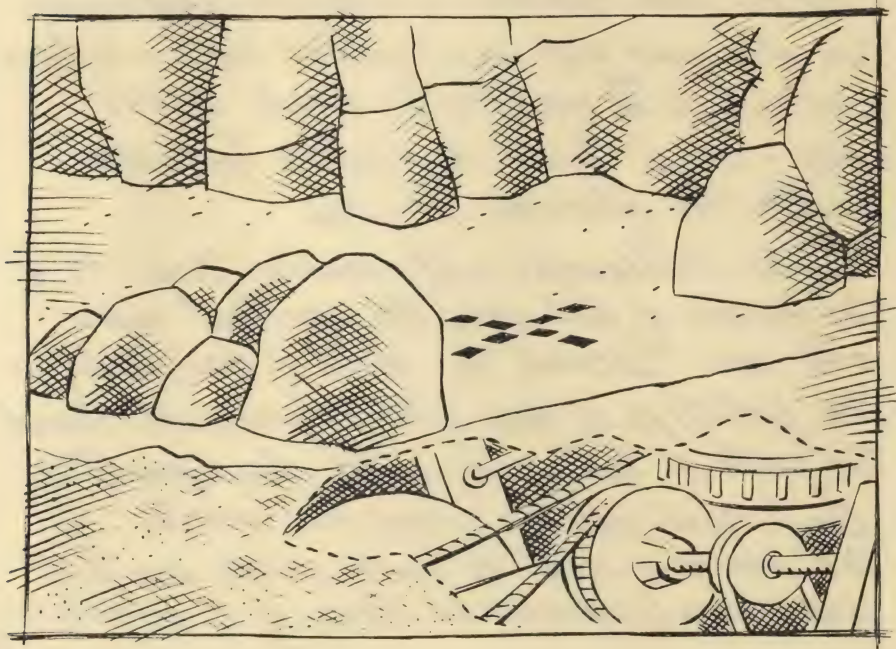
The passage seems to date from the period of the great Theologian's exile from England. In the midst of a typical philosophical discourse on the nature of God the Father, Anselm broke off and wrote the words EQVESTRI SEPULCRUM IN (obscured) REGINA (obscured) DALMATIAE - "the knight's Tomb in (the crypt of?) Queen (her name?) of Dalmatia."

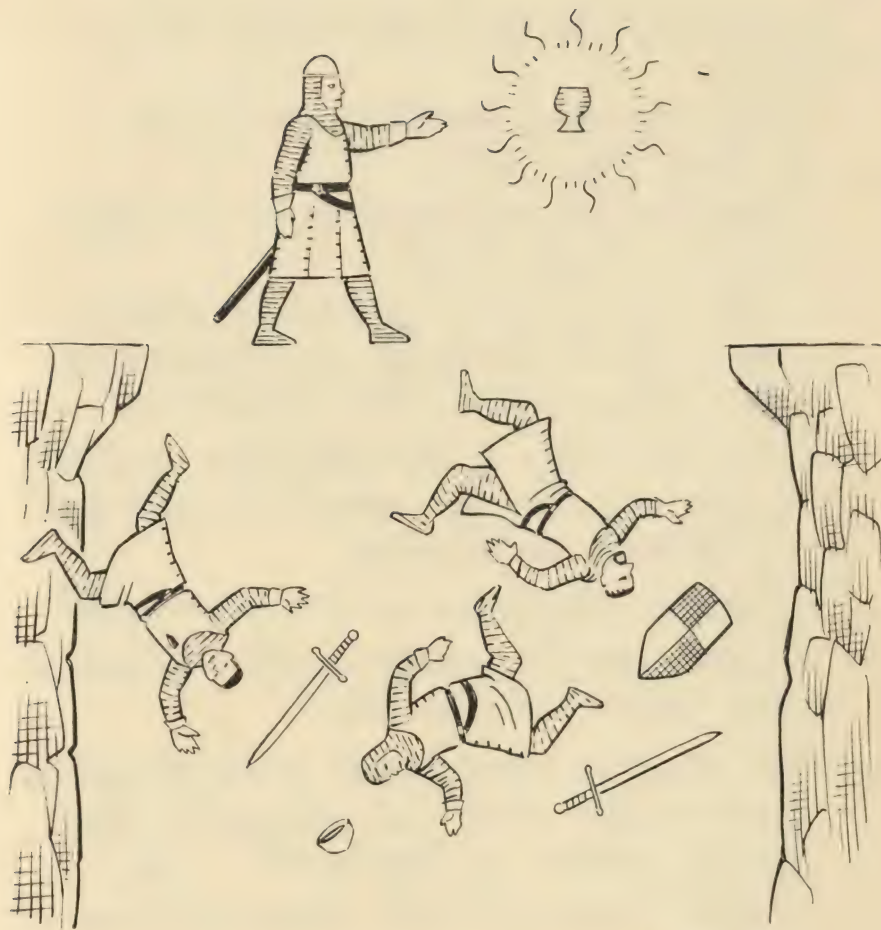
Below this sentence is a crude representation of a wine cup surrounded by a rimbus over which ~~is~~ ^{are} written the words CHRISTI CALIX - cup of Christ. And below this was written the following passage:

"The challenges will number three. First, the breath of God; only the penitent man will pass. Second, the word of God; only in the footsteps of God will he proceed. Third, the path of God; only in the leap from the lion's head will he prove his worth." In the margin next to these words are two drawings (reproduced here) of a mech-

amical device ~~resembling a pendulum~~,
and a man, seemingly walking on air.

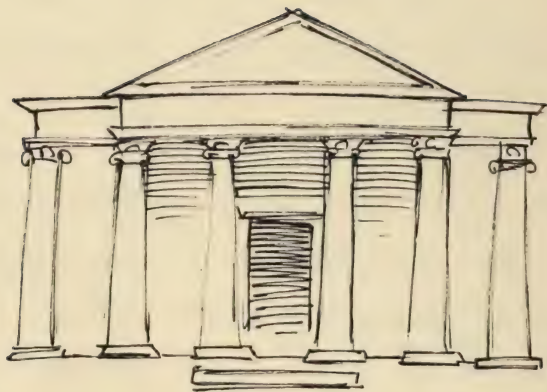
The breath of God, the word of God, the
path of God - the same enigmatic words
that were spoken more than a century and
a half after St. Amalun's death by the Fran-
ciscan friar who knew the location of the
Grail - spoken as if they were tests of some
kind that he was unworthy to pass.





suddenly everything begins to connect:

- Both Anselm and the friar refer to these three tests.
- The Burton fragment refers to "passing the three trials."
- The lost journal of Paolo of Genoa refers to the Grail as being guarded by "lethal protective devices."
- The drawing in the Anselm manuscript certainly could be some sort of lethal contraption!
- Abbess Hildegard in her vision of the Grail heard musical notes "by which you shall open the tomb."
- St. Anselm here speaks of the Grail in connection with "the Knight's Tomb in the queen of Dalmatia" - the Latin name for the Yugoslavian coast.
- "The knight" could be the knight of the first crusade who told the friar where the Grail was to be found.



The knight's Tomb in the queen of Dalmatia! I am off to Paris tomorrow, from whence I take the Orient Express to Belgrade!

Princeton

October 2, 1932

Letter came from Staulig today.
How ironic that the Book of the Spells
of Merlin should turn up in Dubrovnik!
I would be more excited about his
discovery were it not for my bitter

disappointment of two years ago when I failed to find any trace of the Grail in Yugoslavia. The Merlin account of the Grail provides some connection - the Aramaic inscription is identical to the one described in the Kaffa parchment - but it leaves me no closer to finding the item that has now eluded me for thirty-four years. What does it look like? I now have ten descriptions of the Grail, each one unique. Where is it located? I have an almost useless map and a cryptic reference to a knight's tomb "in the queen of Dalmatia" that may be opened by a musical phrase. Danke Schon, Herr Stauning, but unfortunately your discovery comes under the heading of too little, too late.

News of Junior continues to reach me through the popular press, most recently from Indo-China where he is apparently in pursuit of a jade idol -

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"The demon monkey of Laeng-Tran" - that is said to possess some sort of occult power. I simply can't understand his obsession with such fanciful nonsense. My God, what will he be after next? The lost cities of Cibola? The ark of the covenant? How could I have raised such a son?

And why must he insist on going by that ridiculous name?

New York

December 9, 1937

What a fool I have been! I ~~held the~~ have held the key to the Grail in my hand for more than seven years and have failed to recognize it!

Not Yugoslavia but Venice. The cryptic reference in the Anselm manuscript should be reconstructed as EQUESTRI SEPULCRUM IN URBE REGINA MARIS DALMATIAE - "The knights' tomb (is) in the queen city

of the Sea of Dalmatia - that is, the Adriatic. Venice - the Queen of the Adriatic - is where I will find the knight's tomb. And within the tomb is to be found a "marker" that locates the Grail!

How I came by this knowledge is a tale too long to relate in detail in my excitement of the moment. I am in a luxury suite in the Playa Hotel, provided me by one Walter Donovan, a wealthy industrialist and collector of antiquities who has long been a benefactor of scholarly institutions and museums. He is in possession of the friar's chronicle - the friar, the one who died at Kaffa, the one who learned of the Grail's location from the 150-year-old-crusader, et cetera, et cetera - and, more astonishingly, of an incomplete stone tablet which the three brothers left as a "marker" to seekers of the Grail. Donovan has allowed me to make a rubbing of the partial inscription on the tablet; but according to the friar's account, a second

"marker" that may lead to the Grail is buried with the Knight's brother.

The knight's tomb!

My insight concerning Venice I have kept to myself. Donovan is as anxious to find this second marker as I am; he has a great deal of money to spend on the project, and tonight he has asked me to lead his research team. As soon as I can extricate myself from my obligations at Princeton, I am to sail - no, fly - to Berlin to meet with Dr. Schneider, who will be working on the project with me. I do not intend to mention Venice until I am ready to depart. Donovan may well have this Schneider begin the investigation without me. (I've never heard of any Schneider. Must ask Stambig if he knows him.) Besides, it will be rather embarrassing if I am proven wrong.

But I am right. This time I am sure of it.



Written by Mark Falstein
Art direction by Mark Shepard
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